STRANGE Academy FINALS

MARVEL

6

LGY#24

YOUNG
RAMOS
DELGADO

STRANGE

Academy

Welcome to Strange Academy, where the best and brightest young sorcerers are trained by the greatest magic users in the realm!

Emily Bright and Dormammu have launched their assault on Strange Academy, crashing the students' commencement ceremony. While the faculty banded together to transported Dormammu to the realm of the Vishanti for their battle, the students were left on the school grounds to face Emily, her remaining allies, and the denizens of the Dark Dimension. But their prophesied schoolyard rumble was cut short by unexpected visitors--Emily's parents.

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STRANGE

Academy

DOYLE

TOTH

SHAYLEE

EMILY

GUS

ALVI

GERMÁN

DESSY

ZOE

IRIC

CALVIN

I DON'T UNDERSTAND. HOW DID YOU EVEN KNOW I'D--?

HOW WE KNOW ISN'T IMPORTANT. WE SHOULD HAVE NEVER LET YOU COME TO THIS PLACE, AND WE'RE HERE TO TAKE YOU HOME *RIGHT N--*

HONEY, TENSIONS ARE HIGH ENOUGH. SHE DOESN'T NEED YOU ADDING FUEL TO THE FIRE.

WHAT DID YOU JUST CALL HER?

UM... HONEY?

YOU NEED TO BE MUCH BETTER...

...LIARS!

VWAAAAA-

ASSHH

VWOMP

...DEAD!

MY DAD KNOWS IF HE CALLS MY MOM *HONEY*, HE'LL BE...

CAN'T YOU ALL SEE THEY WILL NEVER STOP LYING TO YOU?!

NNNPPPH!

DON'T *LET* THEM! YOU ARE STRONGER AND MORE POWERFUL THAN THEY'LL *EVER* LET YOU KNOW!

EMILY BRIGHT GETS HERSELF A SCARY-LOOKING CAPE AND NOW THINKS WE'RE ALL DYING TO HEAR HER MONOLOGUE.

DON'T PUSH HER, MAN. SHE'S OVER THE EDGE.

NO. SHE'S JUST PLAYING DRESS-UP. IF SHE WERE REALLY ABOUT THAT VILLAIN LIFE AND HAD WHAT IT TAKES, SHE WOULDN'T BE GIVING SPEECHES.

SHE'D BE FULFILLING HER PART OF THE PROPHECY AND--

--KILLING YOU?!

VVVVVVVVVV

DOYLE, GET DOWN!

NO!

VWUUUUUUUFSSHH

WHY DID YOU DO THAT?! I COULD'VE TAKEN IT!

I C-COULDN'T LET Y-YOU GET ALL THE G-G-GLORY...

...D-DORKMAMMU.

EMILY, WHAT DID YOU DO?

I PROVED MY POINT. I KNOW IRIC WARNED YOU I WOULD BE COMING TODAY AND WHAT I'D BE BRINGING WITH ME. WHAT DID YOU AND THE OTHERS DO? SEND THE STUDENTS AWAY? PROTECT THEM FROM WHAT WAS COMING?

NO! YOU PUT THEM ON A BATTLEFIELD KNOWING SOME OF THEM WOULDN'T MAKE IT.

YOU ***DID*** THIS. ***YOU*** KILLED IRIC.

HOW MANY MORE PEOPLE DO YOU WANT TO BLAME FOR ***YOUR*** CHOICES, BRIGHT?

JUST ONE, IF YOU DON'T WISE UP, DOYLE.

JUST ONE.

HE LOVED YOU! AND YOU--!

RAAAGGHH!

NOPE.

SHAYLEE, IT'S ADORABLE THAT YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD--

HEY, BRIGHT!

YOU KNOW WHAT *I* WISH?

WHAT--?

I WISH YOU'D JUST *SHUT UP!*

GUH!

I NEVER TOOK YOU FOR THE SUCKER-PUNCHING TYPE, CALVIN!

MUUAAAAAA!

MUUAAAAAA!

MUUAAAAAA!

MUUAAAAAA!

I NEVER TOOK *YOU* FOR A *BITCH!*

WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO SHOW YOU ALL...

...THAT YOU CAN'T *COMPETE* WITH ME?!

WANNA BET?!

IT'S TIME TO END THIS!

YEAH, NO %$#@.

RRROOOAAAGGGHH

WHAT'S HAPPENING, VOODOO?

SOMETHING IS PIERCING THE DIMENSIONAL BOUNDARIES AND TAPPING DIRECTLY INTO HOGGOTH'S MAGIC CORE.

NOT SOMETHING, JERICHO. SOME*ONE!*

HA HA HA HA!

THE WITCH IS RIGHT! THE GIRL HAS DONE IT. SHE HAS BROUGHT THE PROPHECY TO LIGHT.

THE DAWN OF BRIGHT IS HERE!

MY WORK IS DONE! UNTIL NEXT TIME, PATHETIC FOOLS...

DAWN OF BRIGHT?

THE KID THINKS SHE GETS A FULL-BLOWN TITLE FOR HER EVIL COMING-OUT PARTY?

TYPICAL *TEENAGER.*

DORMAMMU IS NO LONGER A THREAT. WE MUST RETURN TO THE STUDENTS. DO YOU HAVE ENOUGH LEFT TO--?

I AM *HOGGOTH.* I AM IMMORTAL. I AM PART OF THE ORDER OF THE VISHANTI AND HOLDER OF THE MOST POWERFUL LINE OF MAGIC.

I *ALWAYS* HAVE ENOUGH LEFT.

ARE YOU READY TO GIVE UP YET?

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS WALK OUT OF THE FRONT GATES-- THE REST OF THEM WILL FOLLOW YOU, AND THIS WILL BE OVER.

N-NO CH-CHANCE.

FINE!

GAAAAAHHH!

NO, TOTH. I KNOW IT'S HARD, BUT WE HAVE TO LET DOYLE DO THIS, OR IT WILL NEVER END.

DAMN YOU, DOYLE! ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS *WALK AWAY!* THEN YOU AND THE REST OF THE STUDENTS ARE SAFE.

WHY ARE YOU WILLING TO DIE FOR THIS PLACE?

FOR THE SAME REASON YOU'RE WILLING TO KILL ME FOR IT.

I WAS HOPING EVENTUALLY YOU'D SEE WHAT YOU WERE DOING AND STOP YOURSELF. OR THAT THEY'D TEACH ME HOW TO HARNESS THE TRUE POWER OF *MY* MAGIC SO I WOULDN'T HAVE TO TAP INTO MY FATHER'S.

BUT I JUST REMEMBERED WHAT *YOU* DID WHEN I DIED.

YOU REACHED OUT...AND TOOK ALL OF MY MAGICS FOR YOURSELF.

I THINK IT'S TIME I TOOK THEM BACK!

DOYLE, YOU CAN'T--

ALWAYS COULD. JUST WOULDN'T.

THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE!

I'M THE SON OF DORMAMMU. I DON'T THINK "IMPOSSIBLE" APPLIES.

GAAAAHHHHH!

NO. IT'S NOT SUPPOSED TO BE LIKE THIS.

YOU SHOULD GO. I DON'T THINK I CAN CONTAIN THIS.

WWOMM

DOYLE! SHE'S GONE! YOU GOTTA STOP, BRO!

YOU'RE GOING FULL DORMAMMU, AND THAT AIN'T GOOD!

I'M SORRY, CALVIN. I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE NOW. TAKE EVERYONE AND GO. I DON'T HAVE MUCH LONGER!

NO WAY! I'M NOT LETTING **TWO** OF MY BESTIES BREAK BAD ON US! THAT'S NOT HOW THIS GOES!

GRAB HIM!

DOYLE?! WHERE IS EMILY?

SHE LEFT. SHE WAS GOING TO KILL ME AND DESTROY EVERYTHING, SO I TOOK THE DARK MAGIC BACK.

YOU HAVE TO LEAVE NOW TOO. I CAN FEEL IT... I'M LOSING MYSELF...

JERICHO! YOU'VE GOT TO HELP HIM! WE'VE LOST TOO MUCH ALREADY!

WORRY NOT. I CAN SEE WHAT THIS NOBLE CHILD DID.

GRRAAOORR!

THANK YOU, HOGGOTH. AGAIN.

YOU DID IT, DOYLE. YOU FULFILLED YOUR PART OF THE PROPHECY. YOU WERE THE LIGHT THAT KEPT THE DARKNESS AT BAY.

EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE OKAY.

NO, IT'S NOT, HEADMASTER. YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.

OH NO.

THANK YOU, IRIC.

...BECAUSE OF HIS SACRIFICE, STRANGE ACADEMY WILL CONTINUE TO BE A SAFE PLACE FOR THOSE OF US WHO ARE DIFFERENT AND NEED GUIDANCE IN OUR JOURNEY THROUGH LEARNING THE MYSTIC ARTS.

A PLACE WHERE, DESPITE THE CHOICES WE MAKE, WE WILL ALWAYS BE SHOWN GRACE, FORGIVENESS...

...AND GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY FOR REDEMPTION.

AND SO TODAY, WE HONOR OUR FRIEND AND BROTHER, IRIC BRORSON.

CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

THANK YOU FOR YOUR VERY POWERFUL WORDS, DOYLE.

WE WILL FOREVER REMEMBER WHAT IRIC GAVE TO THIS SCHOOL AND ITS STUDENTS.

SPEAKING OF...

...IT'S TIME TO ONCE AGAIN OPEN THE DOORS OF ***STRANGE ACADEMY***...

...TO THE NEWEST CLASS OF STUDENTS!

THE END (FOR NOW)!

Dear fellow students,

My name is Nick Lowe, and I edited this comic. Very proudly. I have a bunch to say about it, but I'll have the creators go first. Skottie, take it away!

Wow. It's hard to believe our run has come to an end. I'm so proud of the work we did on this book and I'm thankful for all of you who joined us on this magical journey! This book has meant so much to me. From the night I texted C.B. and said "Hey, we should do a magic school in the Marvel universe!" to me typing this for the letter column for the final issue, I've felt like the luckiest comic geek ever! I mean, I got to wake up every day for years and look at brand-new Humberto Ramos artwork! As someone who has looked up to him long before I made comics for a living, it was a dream come true. I could gush all day about everyone who had a hand in helping make this book a reality, but I'll leave some space here for others to say a few words. Thank you for reading our comic! See you on the next one!

Skottie Young

Goodbyes are always hard. No matter how bad the situation you are in, it is hard to let go. Now imagine when you get to work with your buddies, your friends...your family.

Almost five years ago, I was ubering this guy, Skottie Young, and being the good driver I am (I was earning my five stars), we started talking about stuff, and suddenly he dropped the bomb. "Hey, dude, you're done with SPIDER-MAN now, right? What are you doing now? What's you next project?"

I realized I had no idea what to do, but I definitely knew who I wanted to do it with... Then this Young guy starts telling me this crazy story about a school for magic people where the teachers are Scarlet Witch, Magik, Wong, and so-and-so, where Doctor Strange is the headmaster, and Dormammu's kid goes to school there. Dormammu has a kid? It sounded like a crazy but exciting idea, then he says, "I was wondering if that's something you want to do."

And my answer was, "You had me at hello." Let me be clear, STRANGE ACADEMY is a book I made with my buddies up in our tree house down in the woods. We even did a field trip to NEW ORLEANS!!!!! Can you believe it?! Anyway, today is the last day of school and we have to move forward to accomplish new goals, but this book will always have a special place in my heart.

Thanks, C.B., for being the boss I dreamed of having. One who I can call "friend"--*ohana*.

Nick, you are the editor I always dreamed to have, One who I can call "friend"--*ohana* (Gee, I just said that, so it might be double truth). I'm hoping I have the same relationship with my next editor, it's unlikely, I know, but I can always wish!

Edgar, you are my wingman. I can't say you are my Goose, but certainly you are ultraduck, man. Thank you for your talent and professionalism

Clayton, thank you for allowing us the luxury to have your name in this book every issue. That alone took the book to a higher level.

Rickey, thank you for always reminding me that this is why I love this job in the first place--because of people like you.

To the team who made everything sooo easy for me because you work so damn hard. Kathleen, Danny, Shannon, Tom, Kaeden--you rock!!!!

And let me please say thanks to my wife, Fernanda. Maybe you don't see her drawing anything in this book, you don't read her ideas and her name is surely not in the credits, but believe me, this book wouldn't exist without her. You are my everyday inspiration. I love you, cookie!

Humberto Ramos

What a ride! First time I heard about this project was in Mexico, Skottie and Humberto talked to me about it, and to be honest I was a bit skeptical, the whole concept didn't sound "Marvel-y" at all. That goes to show you how wrong I was and how awesome the Marvel Universe is, where something like a freaking magical academy works so well. I was sure this project was going to be a hit the moment I started coloring the first page, and I can tell you that every issue made me feel like I had to give my best, and that I wasn't the right person for the project. Talk about impostor syndrome! I want to thank Skottie, Nick, C.B., and specially, my *carnal* Humberto for making me part of this school of magic, I love these kids!

Edgar Delgado

I must admit, I'm very sorry to see this one go. If you told me when I started this job that STRANGE ACADEMY #18 would be one of my favorite single issues of any series ever...well, I guess I'd believe you, but I'd still be surprised. I'm so proud of our giant cast! They've come a long way! Thanks so much to my fellow creators for having me

on, and double thanks to you, the reader!

Clayton Cowles

When Skottie pitched this book, I had a good feeling about it. When Humberto did his first sketches, I knew it would be incredible. A bunch of us who were working on it, out of sheer enthusiasm and drive, did a research trip down to New Orleans and had the best time and learned so much. Several characters (hero and villain alike) came out of that trip. So that also made this unlike any other book I've worked on. It wasn't until we sent the first issue to press that it sunk in that this book would be a career highlight. I've been editing comics for more than twenty years and am incredibly proud of almost every book I've had the good fortune to edit, but this book is different and is one of the best and one of my most favorite books I've ever worked on. I'm so proud of it and so sad that it's over. Like usual, it comes down to the creative team.

Skottie Young is one of the most emotionally intelligent writers (and people) that I've had the pleasure of knowing. From the first story he wrote for me, all the way back in X-MEN: DIVIDED WE STAND, where he found such potent emotional truth for the character Anole, I knew he was a rare breed. Many writers get caught up in the plot and the powers and some forget that the characters and what they think and feel is what it's all about. Skottie never does. He knows that the plot is in service to the characters and can always find a way to grab you by the heart. Seeing him create all these incredible characters with Humberto and the ride he took them (and us) on will forever stay with me. This book made me feel 15 again.

Clayton Cowles is one of the best letterers in the business today (and probably ever). We were lucky he agreed to do this book and even luckier that he put his heart into it and worked his butt off. He is always thinking, always contributing, and doesn't cut corners, and we are all so grateful for his excellence.

Edgar Delgado has been one of the leading colorists in the comics business for thirty years or so. Before this book, I thought I'd seen everything that Edgar could do, but then every issue, he surprised us. He is such a thoughtful colorist and was a huge part of the look and feeling and storytelling of this book. We are so thankful for his excellence and for always coming through.

Kathleen Wisneski and Danny Khazem were associate editor and assistant editor when we started this journey. Their fingerprints are all over this book and especially the bonus materials that have been in every issue. Tom Groneman, Shannon Andrews Ballesteros, and Kaeden McGahey took up the torch assisting on this book and they are also a huge part of its DNA.

This book doesn't exist without C.B. Cebulski. When he became editor in chief, this was one of the first fuses he lit. He supported the creators, their idea, making this book happen and keeping it cohesive. As I see it, this book is a huge part of C.B.'s legacy in comics.

Last but DEFINITELY not least, Humberto Ramos is a living legend and an amazing human being. The artist is the beating heart of a comic book (and so much more, to be honest), and Humberto is ALL heart. The love he put into the characters and the pages, never cutting corners, even when Skottie made every issue something insanely different knowing that Humberto could handle it. And handle it, he did, with joy and aplomb and genius.

I said last, but I also want to point out you wonderful readers and fans out there. You embraced this book and these characters, and we couldn't have done it without you. To those of you who sent in applications, you are all incredible. We intended to do more with those, but the pandemic and life getting more and more crazy made that impossible. But we read every single one and laughed and were amazed at your creativity. To say goodbye, here's a picture I took on our trip of Skottie and Humberto!

But this isn't a FOREVER goodbye! Look at our August solicitations for some possible surprises!

ZONE